DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 229 686 CG 016 657

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TITLE Aging and Family Resources: Availability and Proximity of Kin.
PUB DATE Nov 82
NOTE 16p.; Paper presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society (35th, Boston, MA, November 19-23, 1982).
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Demography; Family Characteristics; *Family Involvement; Family Mobility; Gerontology; *Human Resources; Interpersonal Relationship; *Older Adults; Proximity; *Social Support Groups
IDENTIFIERS *Kinship Role

ABSTRACT

Family resources are vital to older individuals. In order to establish base-line data on the availability and proximity of kin to persons aged 45 or older in a midwestern state, information was gathered for six months from the obituary section of the local newspaper. The sample includeed 1,413 individuals. Information included availabiltiy of kin, distance of child's or sibling's residence from that of the deceased, and proximity of kin. Data analyses indicated that the sample as a whole had both surviving children and siblings but that many of these lived outside the target area. Children of the deceased tended to live nearer than did their siblings. The results indicate that if direct services such as transportation, meals, and personal chores become necessary to enable older persons without kin living nearby to remain independent, these services will have to be provided by an agency other than the family. (AG)

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AGING AND FAMILY RESOURCES:

AVAILABILITY AND PROXIMITY OF KIN

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PREPARED FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA. BOSTON, NOVEMBER 19-23, 1982.

INTRODUCTION

In remarks prepared for delivery at an American Association of Homes for the Aging meeting in October, 1982, Dorcas Hardy, assistant secretary for Human Development Services at the Department of Health and Human Services, said that the Reagan administration 'views families as the first line of defense' for the elderly in need (Older American Reports, October 18, 1982). GAO Cleveland study findings (1977) that only one of every five older persons sampled was not impaired in some way suggest that sooner or later many older persons will have need to draw upon family resources for assistance or support. A number of studies have established that the family can, and does, provide psychological support as well as financial assistance and direct support services to older members (Cantor, 1981; Cicirelli, 1982; General Accounting Office, 1977; Gibson, 1972; Shanas and Sussman, 1981), but present policy underscores the importance of examining once more the kin resources of older persons who may, eventually, find themselves 'at risk.'

The family resources of older persons depend, to some extent, on both the availability and the proximity of children and siblings to the older individual or couple. While both psychological support and financial assistance can be provided by kin living too far distant for frequent face-to-face interaction, the provision of such direct support services as transportation, home

HELP, HOME AND YARD MAINTENANCE, PERSONAL CARE AND BUREAUCRATIC MEDIATION BY KIN, IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE AND PREVENTING INSTITUTIONALIZATION, IS ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS RESIDE NEAR ENOUGH TO THE OLDER RELATIVE FOR DAILY OR WEEKLY CONTACT.

THIS STUDY WAS UNDERTAKEN TO ESTABLISH BASE-LINE DATA ON BOTH THE AVAILABILITY AND THE PROXIMITY OF KIN, SPECIFICALLY SPOUSE, CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND SIBLINGS, TO PERSONS AGED 65 AND OLDER IN THE WICHITA, KANSAS SMSA, AND, FOR COMPARISON, THE AVAILABILITY AND PROXIMITY OF KIN TO PERSONS AGED 45-64 IN THE SAME AREA.

DATA COLLECTION

INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY AND PROXIMITY OF KIN TO A SAMPLE OF THIS POPULATION WAS GATHERED USING THE OBITUARY COLUMN OF THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON, WHICH PUBLISHES FUNERAL NOTICES FOR ALL DEATHS IN THE WICHITA AREA. THE SAMPLE, THEREFORE, CONSISTS OF ALL PERSONS* AGED 45 AND OLDER RESIDENT IN SEDGWICK COUNTY OR BUTLER COUNTY IN KANSAS WHOSE OBITUARY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE SIX MONTHS STARTING SEPTEMBER 1, 1981. THESE NUMBERED 1,413 PERSONS.

THIS IS A JUDGMENT SAMPLE (MILLER, 1977), IN WHICH A SUBGROUP OF THE POPULATION IS SELECTED WHICH, ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION, CAN BE JUDGED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TOTAL

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*INSTITUTIONALIZED AND NONINSTITUTIONALIZED. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH THE INSTITUTIONALIZED FROM NONINSTITUTIONALIZED DECEDENTS FROM THE OBITUARY NOTICES.

POPULATION, AND A COMPLETE COUNT OF THIS POPULATION IS TAKEN. THERE IS NO REASON TO ASSUME THAT THE SAMPLE SELECTED FOR STUDY DIFFERS FROM THE TOTAL POPULATION IN THE CHARACTERISTIC, I.E. KIN RESOURCES, TO BE EXAMINED. THIS METHOD PROVIDED AN INEXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE DIFFICULT TRADITIONAL RANDOM SAMPLING APPROACH AND ALSO AVOIDS PROBLEMS WITH PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS.

INFORMATION SOUGHT REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF KIN TO THE SAMPLE INCLUDED: (1) PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF SURVIVING SPOUSE; (2) PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF SURVIVING PARENT; (3) NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN, INCLUDING STEP-CHILDREN; (4) NUMBER OF SURVIVING SUBLINGS, INCLUDING STEP-SIBLINGS; (5) TOTAL SURVIVING CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS; AND (6) TOTAL SURVIVORS.

DISTANCE OF EACH CHILD OR SIBLING'S RESIDENCE FROM THE DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE WAS CLASSIFIED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES: (1) WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA; (2) OUTSIDE THE SMSA BUT WITHIN 50 MILES OF IT; (3) WITHIN THE REST OF KANSAS AND THE CONTIGUOUS STATES (MISSOURI, ARKANSAS, OKLAHOMA, COLORADO, NEBRASKA, IOWA); AND (4) ELSEWHERE IN THE NATION AND BEYOND. THESE CATEGORIES WERE DEVELOPED TO CORRESPOND WITH DISTANCES COMPATIBLE WITH: (1) DAILY DIRECT INTERACTION OR ASSISTANCE IF NEEDED; (2) WEEKLY DIRECT INTERACTION OR ASSISTANCE; (3) OCCASIONAL DIRECT INTERACTION OR ASSISTANCE; AND (4) LESS FREQUENT DIRECT INTERACTION OR CONTACT.

INFORMATION SOUGHT REGARDING PROXIMITY OF KIN TO THE SAMPLE INCLUDED: (1) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AT EACH DISTANCE; (2) THE NUMBER OF SIBLINGS AT EACH DISTANCE; (3) COMBINED CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS AT EACH DISTANCE; (4) THE PROPORTION OF KIN AT EACH DIS-

TANCE FOR CHILDREN, FOR SIBLINGS, AND FOR CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS COMBINED.

FINDINGS

THE SAMPLE CONSISTED OF 1,413 INDIVIDUALS, 338 OF THEM AGED 45-64 AND 1,075 OF THEM AGED 65-101. THE AVERAGE AGE OF DECEDENTS WAS 74.2 AND THE MEDIAN AGE WAS 75.4. FEMALES COMPROSED 49.7% OF THE SAMPLE POPULATION. FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF DECEDENTS (25.4% OF FEMALES AND 69.3% OF MALES) WERE SURVIVED BY A SPOUSE, 9.5% WERE SURVIVED BY A PARENT, 81.3% WERE SURVIVED BY AT LEAST ONE CHILD, AND TWO-THIRDS WERE SURVIVED BY ONE OR MORE SIBLINGS.

FOR THE SAMPLE AS A WHOLE, THE MEAN NUMBER OF SURVIVING SIBLINGS AND CHILDREN WAS 4.4 (2.5 CHILDREN AND 1.9 SIBLINGS); 18.7% HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN, 24.4% HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS, BUT ONLY 7.1% HAD NEITHER. THE MEAN NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA, HOWEVER, WAS ONLY 1.8 (1.3 CHILDREN AND 0.5 SIBLINGS); 34.5% HAD NO CHILDREN RESIDING WITHIN THE AREA, 71.9% HAD NO SIBLINGS RESIDING IN THE AREA, AND 23.4% HAD NEITHER CHILDREN NOR SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA.

FOR THE SAMPLE POPULATION AGED 45-64, THE MEAN NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS WAS HIGHER--5.7 (2.8 CHILDREN AND 2.9 SIBLINGS); 14.2% HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN, 16.7% HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS, AND 4.4% HAD NEITHER. THE MEAN NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA WAS 2.5 (1.7 CHILDREN AND 0.8 SIBLINGS); 29.5% HAD NO CHILDREN RE-

SIDING IN THE AREA, 61.8% HAD NO SIBLINGS RESIDING IN THE AREA, AND 18.0% HAD NEITHER CHILDREN NOR SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA.

FOR THE SAMPLE POPULATION AGED 65+, THE MEAN NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN WAS 3.9 (2.3 CHILDREN AND 1.6 SIBLINGS); 20% HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN, 37% HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS, AND 7.9% HAD NEITHER. THE MEAN NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA WAS 1.6 (1.2 CHILDREN AND 0.4 SIBLINGS); 36.2% HAD NO CHILDREN RESIDING WITHIN THE AREA, 75.1% HAD NO SIBLINGS RESIDING IN THE AREA, AND 24.7% HAD NEITHER CHILDREN NOR SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA.

FOR THE SAMPLE AS A WHOLE, 41.1% OF SURVIVING CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS LIVED WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA AND 47.8% LIVED WITHIN 50 MILES; 23.1% RESIDED IN CONTIGUOUS STATES, AND 29.1% RESIDED FURTHER DISTANT. CHILDREN TENDED TOWARD GREATER PROXIMITY THAN DID SIBLINGS. NEARLY 54% OF SURVIVING CHILDREN RESIDED WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA AND 58.5% RESIDED WITHIN 50 MILES OF WICHITA; 16.2% RESIDED IN CONTIGUOUS STATES, AND 25.3% RESIDED FURTHER DISTNAT. WHILE 25.5% OF SURVIVING SIBLINGS LIVED WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA AND 34.0% LIVED WITHIN 50 MILES OF WICHITA, 31.7% RESIDED IN CONTIGUOUS STATES, AND 34.3% RESIDED FURTHER DISTANT. THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE IN THIS DISTRIBUTION PATTERN BETWEEN DECEDENTS AGED 45-64 AND DECEDENTS AGED 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

TABLE 1 SHOWS THE NUMBER AND PROXIMITY OF SURVIVING CHILDREN FOR THE SAMPLE AND EACH AGE GROUP WITHIN THE SAMPLE EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF AGE GROUP. AS TABLE 1 SHOWS, WHILE ONLY TWENTY PER-

CENT (A NUMBER AGREEING EXACTLY WITH SHANAS' FINDINGS FOR NON-INSTITUTIONALIZED OLDER PERSONS) OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN, ONE-THIRD HAS NO SURVIVING CHILDREN RESIDING WITHIN 50 MILES, AND 26.3% HAD NO CHILDREN RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA. THIS WAS TRUE OF MORE THAN ONE-FOURTH OF DECEDENTS AGED 45-64 AS WELL. ANOTHER 19.4% OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ HAD CNLY ONE SURVIVING CHILD, AND 23.1% HAD ONLY ONE CHILD RESIDING WITHIN 50 MILES. CONVERSELY, ONLY 60.6% OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ HAD TWO OR MORE CHILDREN, AND ONLY 34.1% HAD MORE THAN ONE CHILD RESIDING WITHIN 50 MILES.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE NUMBER AND PROXOMITY OF SURVIVING SIBLINGS FOR THE SAMPLE AND EACH AGE GROUP WITHIN THE SAMPLE EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF AGE GROUP. AS TABLE 2 SHOWS, 37% OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS, 69.6% HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN 50 MILES, AND 75.1% HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA. ONLY 16.7% OF DECEDENTS AGED 45-64 HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS, BUT 61.8% OF DECEDENTS AGED 45-64 HAD NO SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA. THE NUMBER OF DECEDENTS WITH NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS INCREASES SHARPLY WITH AGE. WHILE ONLY 21.1% OF DECEDENTS AGED 65-74 HAD NO SURVIVING SIBLINGS, 58.4% OF DECEDENTS AGED 85+ WERE NOT SURVIVED BY SIBLINGS. TWO-THIRDS OF DECEDENTS AGED 65-74 HAD NO SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA, WHILE 86% OF DECEDENTS AGED 85+ HAD NONE. ONLY 9.9% OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ HAD TWO OR MORE SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA.

TABLE 3 SHOWS THE NUMBER AND PROXIMITY OF SURVIVING CHILDREN

TABLE 1

NUMBER AND PROXIMITY OF SURVIVING CHILDREN FOR THE SAMPLE AND EACH AGE GROUP EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF AGE GROUP

SURVIVING CHILDREN	AGE GROUP					TOTAL SAMPLE	AGE GROUP	
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	TOTAL	45-64	65+
0 CHILDREN	12.0%	15.0%	19.4%	21.1%	19.3%	18.6%	14.2%	20.0%
0 W/I 50 MI	20.7	28.9	37.0	36.4	27.0	32.1	26.6	33.8
0 W/I SMSA	23.9	30.4	40.2	38.2	29.2	34.5	29.0	36.2
1 CHILD	17.4%	12.2%	17.6%	19.4%	21.4%	18.0%	13.6%	19.4%
1 W/I 50 MI	28.3	24.0	29.6	30.6	36.6	30.4	25.1	32.1
1 W/I SMSA	28.3	23.6	28.7	32.8	38.8	31.3	24.9	33.3
2 CHILDREN	19.6%	23.6%	22.6%	23.8%	18.9%	22.1%	22.5%	22.0%
2 W/I 50 MI	20.7	20.7	15.2	19.9	17.1	18.3	20.7	17.6
2 W/I SMSA	20.7	21.5	15.0	17.7	17.4	17.8	21.3	16.7
3 CHILDREN	25.0%	20.3%	15.5%	18.2%	14.6%	17.6%	21.6%	16.3%
3 W/I 50 MI	15.2	14.6	10.3	6.6	9.6	10.1	14.8	8.7
3 W/I SMSA	13.0	13.4	8.5	5.6	8.7	8.8	13.3	7.4
4 CHILDREN	8.7%	11.4%	10.0%	7.3%	10.6%	9.5%	10.7%	9.1%
4 W/I 50 MI	9.8	4.9	4.1	3.4	4.7	4.5	6.2	4.0
4 W/I SMSA	8.7	4.5	4.1	3.2	2.8	3.9	5.6	3.3
5 CHILDREN	9.8%	7.3%	7.3%	2.7%	6.5%	5.9%	8.0%	5.3%
5 W/I 50 MI	3.3	2.8	0.9	1.7	3.1	2.1	3.0	1.9
5 W/I SMSA	3.3	2.8	1.2	1.5	2.2	1.9	3.0	1.6
6+ CHILDREN	7.7%	9.7%	7.1%	7.3%	8.7%	8.3%	9.5%	7.9%
6+ W/I 50 MI	2.8	4.1	2.9	1.5	1.9	2.4	3.6	2.0
6+ W/I SMSA	2.2	3.2	2.4	0.9	0.9	1.8	3.0	1.4
NUMBER	92	246	341	412	322	1413	338	1075
N CHILDREN	251	685	837	898	773	3444	936	2508
MEAN CHILDREN	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.3

TABLE 2

NUMBER AND PROXIMITY OF SURVIVING SIBLINGS FOR THE SAMPLE AND EACH AGE GROUP EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF AGE GROUP

SURVIVING SIBLINGS	AGE GROUP					TOTAL SAMPLE	AGE GROUP	
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	TOTAL	45-64	65+
0 SIBLINGS	18.5%	16.3%	21.1%	33.5%	58.4%	32.2%	16.7%	37.0%
0 W/I 50 MI	54.3	56.9	61.0	65.8	81.1	65.8	56.2	68.8
0 W/I SMSA	59.8	62.6	66.3	73.8	86.0	71.9	61.8	75.1
1 SIBLING	17.4%	20.3%	18.8%	25.7%	20.2%	21.3%	19.5%	21.9%
1 W/I 50 MI	22.8	19.9	19.1	17.7	12.1	17.5	20.7	16.5
1 W/I SMSA	21.7	20.3	19.1	15.8	9.6	16.3	20.7	15.0
2 SIBLINGS	16.3%	13.0%	20.2%	13.6%	11.8%	14.9%	13.9%	15.2%
2 W/I 50 MI	12.0	9.3	10.1	9.7	5.3	8.9	10.1	8.6
2 W/I SMSA	9.8	7.7	7.6	7.0	3.7	6.7	8.3	6.2
3 SIBLINGS	18.5%	13.8%	15.5%	13.8%	5.3%	12.6%	15.1%	11.8%
3 W/I 50 MI	6.5	6.5	5.0	4.1	0.9	4.2	6.5	3.4
3 W/I SMSA	4.3	4.9	4.4	1.9	0.3	2.8	4.7	2.2
4 SIBLINGS	8.7%	13.0%	9.1%	7.0%	2.2%	7.6%	11.8%	6.2%
4 W/I 50 MI	1.1	4.1	2.3	1.7	0.3	1.9	3.3	1.5
4 W/I SMSA	1.1	2.0	1.5	0.7	0.0	1.0	1.8	0.7
5 SIBLINGS	6.5%	7.7%	4.7%	4.6%	0.9%	4.5%	7.4%	3.5%
5 W/I 50 MI	0.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.5	0.8
5 W/I SMSA	0.0	1.6	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.6	1.2	0.4
6+ SIBLINGS	14.1%	15.8%	10.6%	1.6%	1.2%	7.0%	15.4%	4.4%
6+ W/I 50 MI	3.3	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.7	1.8	0.4
6+ W/I SMSA	3.3	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.5	0.4
NUMBER	92	246	341	412	322	1413	338	1075
N SIBLINGS	254	732	826	648	261	2721	986	1735
MEAN SIBLINGS	2.7	3.0	2.4	1.6	0.8	1.9	2.9	1.6

TABLE 3

NUMBER AND PROXIMITY OF SURVIVING CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS FOR THE SAMPLE AND EACH AGE GROUP EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF AGE GROUP

SURVIVING CHILDREN/ SIBLINGS	AGE GROUP					TOTAL SAMPLE	AGE GROUP	
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	TOTAL	45-64	65+
0 SURVIVING	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%	8.3%	10.9%	7.1%	4.4%	7.9%
0 W/I 50 MI	12.0	17.9	19.9	22.6	18.6	19.5	16.3	20.6
0 W/I SMSA	14.1	20.7	24.6	26.7	22.4	23.4	18.9	24.7
1 SURVIVING	5.4%	4.9%	7.6%	12.6%	15.2%	10.2%	5.0	11.8
1 W/I 50 MI	19.6	20.7	28.4	30.1	36.3	28.8	20.4	31.4
1 W/I SMSA	25.0	21.5	29.3	33.7	38.2	31.0	22.5	33.8
2 SURVIVING	10.9%	7.3%	12.6%	16.5%	20.8%	14.6%	8.3%	16.6%
2 W/I 50 MI	19.6	18.3	19.4	20.4	20.5	19.7	18.6	20.1
2 W/I SMSA	16.3	19.5	17.9	19.7	21.7	19.5	18.6	19.7
3 SURVIVING	10.9%	10.6%	12.3%	16.3%	14.3%	13.5%	10.7%	14.4%
3 W/I 50 MI	14.1	15.9	12.6	11.4	12.7	13.0	15.4	12.2
3 W/I SMSA	14.1	16.3	13.2	9.7	10.6	12.2	15.7	11.1
4 SURVIVING	9.8%	14.2%	16.7%	14.6%	12.1%	14.2%	13.0%	14.5%
4 W/I 50 MI	17.4	9.8	8.8	6.8	4.7	8.0	11.8	6.8
4 W/I SMSA	15.2	9.3	7.3	4.6	3.4	6.5	10.9	5.1
5 SURVIVING	13.0%	13.8%	10.3%	9.0%	11.2%	10.9%	10.7%	11.0%
5 W/I 50 MI	7.6	6.1	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.9	6.5	4.4
5 W/I SMSA	6.5	3.3	4.1	2.4	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.0
6+ SURVIVING	44.6%	45.1%	32.8%	22.8%	15.5%	29.6%	45.0%	24.7%
6+ W/I 50 MI	9.8	11.4	6.2	4.6	2.8	6.1	11.0	4.6
6+ W/I SMSA	8.7	9.3	3.5	3.2	1.2	4.2	9.2	2.7
NUMBER	92	246	341	412	322	1413	338	1075
N SURVIVING	505	1417	1663	1546	1034	6165	1922	4243
MEAN SURVIVORS	5.5	5.8	4.9	3.8	3.2	4.4	5.7	4.0

AND SIBLINGS FOR THE SAMPLE AND EACH AGE GROUP WITHIN THE SAMPLE EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF AGE GROUP. AS TABLE 3 SHOWS, ONLY 4.4% OF DECEDENTS AGED 45-64 HAD 7.9% OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ WERE SURVIVED BY NO CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS. HOWEVER, ONE-FIFTH OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN 50 MILES, AND ONE-FOURTH HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN THE WICHITA SMSA. EVEN THOUGH ALMOST ONE-FOURTH OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ WERE SURVIVED BY SIX OR MORE CHILDREN AND SIBLINGS, LESS THAN 5% HAD SIX OR MORE SURVIVORS RESIDING WITHIN 50 MILES.

COMMENTS

THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE, WEHTHER IN THE FORM OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, FINANCIAL AID, OR DIRECT SERVICE, AVAILABLE TO THE OLDER INDIVIDUAL OR COUPLE FROM KIN IS LIMITED BY THE EXTENT OF THAT INDIVIDUAL OR COUPLE'S KIN RESOURCES. WHILE THE EXISTENCE OF CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS DOES NOT GUARANTEE THEIR WILLINGNESS OR ABILITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT TO OLDER FAMILY MEMBERS, THE NUMBER OF KIN AVAILABLE TO AN OLDER PERSON DOES AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE. THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT KIN CAN PROVIDE WITHOUT STRETCHING THEIR OWN RESOURCES TO THE LIMIT MAY DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF KINSMEN AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND THEIR AGE. ONLY 7.9% OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+ IN THIS STUDY HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS AND ONLY 11.8% WERE SURVIVED BY ONLY ONE, AND THESE INDIVIDUALS MAY HAVE HAD GRANDCHILDREN OR NIECES OR NEPHEWS NOT LISTED IN THE OBITUARY NOTICES ON WHOM TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE SHOULD THE NEED

HAVE ARISEN. TWENTY PERCENT OF DECEDENTS AGED 65+, HOWEVER, HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN, AND ANOTHER 19.4% WERE SURVIVED BY ONLY ONE CHILD.

BUT THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE WHICH KIN CAN PROVIDE IS ALSO CLEARLY LIMITED BY PROXIMITY OF THE KINSMAN TO THE OLDER PERSON OR COUPLE IN NEED. DIRECT SERVICES SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE CLEVELAND STUDY AND BY CICIRELLI, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, HOME HELP, MEALS, PERSONAL CHORES, HOME AND YARD MAINTENANCE, HEALTH SERVICES, AND BUREAUCRATIC MEDIATION, CAN ONLY BE PROVIDED BY KIN LIVING NEAR ENOUGH FOR WEEKLY, IN SOME CASES DAILY, INTERACTION. WHILE DATA COLLECTED ON PROXIMITY OF KIN IN THIS STUDY MAY REFLECT IN- AND OUT-MIGRATION PATTERNS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE MID-PLAINS, ONE-THIRD OF DECEDENTS IN THIS STUDY HAD NO CHILDREN LIVING WITHIN 50 MILES, AND ONE-FIFTH HAD NO SURVIVING CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS RESIDING WITHIN 50 MILES. SHOULD SUCH DIRECT SERVICES BECOME NECESSARY TO ENABLE OLDER PERSONS WITHOUT KIN LIVING NEARBY TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND IN THEIR OWN HOMES, THEY WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE PROVIDED BY AN AGENCY OTHER THAN THE FAMILY.

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SAMPLE OBITUARIES

WYATT W. ADAMS, 72, OF 1112 S. MILLWOOD, RETIRED COLEMAN CO. EMPLOYEE, DIED MONDAY SERVICE 10 A.M. FRIDAY, CULBERTSON MORTUARY. SURVIVORS: WIFE, HAZEL; DAUGHTERS, NAOMI ARNDT OF WICHITA, DELORES W. PARKS OF SANTA ROSA, CALIF., WANDA SPOONEMORE OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS; BROTHERS, JOHN HENRY OF MESA, ARIZ., MERLE OF WHITEWATER, EUGENE, MARION, FREDERICK, ALL OF WICHITA, ORVILLE OF ELMWOOD, OVAL OF KANSAS CITY, MO., WILFORD OF NORFOLK, VA.; SISTERS, DEWAINE FUNK OF HARDINTON, TEXAS, PAULINE GEE OF RINGWOOD, OKLA., LOLA ALLEN OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, VADA BAIRD OF NEW BRUNSVILLE, TEXAS. MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH BURDICK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

CLARENCE POWELL, 74, OF 711 WABASH, RETIRED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, DIED THURSDAY. SERVICE 11 A.M. WEDNESDAY, CITIZEN'S FUNERAL HOME. SURVIVOR: MOTHER, OLLIE POWELL OF WICHITA.

BOBBIE JANE BALLINGER, 46, 1611 N. LORRAINE, EVANGELIST, DIED TUESDAY. SERVICE 11 A.M. SATURDAY, PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST. SURVIVORS: HUSBAND, STACY JR., SON, MARVIN JONES OF WICHITA; DAUGHTERS, EVELYN WOODS, CHARMAINE BALLINGER, DESSERREE LYNN BALLINGER, ALL OF WICHITA, REBECCA JOHNSON OF RANTAUL; MOTHER, OTHEL LEIGH OF WICHITA; BROTHERS, HARRY DREAMS JR. OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, FRANK DREAMS OF WICHITA, WANDA MCDANIELS OF TOPEKA, EVANGELINE BROWN OF CHICAGO; HALF BROTHERS, JIMMIE LEIGH OF WICHITA, DONALD LEIGH OF ATLANTA, GA., PRINCE NEW WORLD OF CINCINNATI, OHIO. JACKSON MORTUARY.

SAMPLE OBITUARIES

GRACE E. DURAN, 92, OF 3121 S. EXPOSITION, RETIRED BROWN'S GRILL COOK, DIED MONDAY. SERVICE 1:30 P.M. FRIDAY, DOWNING & LAHEY MORTUARY. SURVIVORS: DAUGHTER, PAULINE REAVES OF WICHITA; SISTERS, MAE DORET OF RIDDLE, ORE., RUTH JENKINS OF HUTCHINSON.

NORMAN E. HARRIS, 64 OF 1040 N. MAIN, MIDWESTERN GLASS CO. EMPLOYEE, DIED MONDAY. SERVICE 10 A.M. WEDNESDAY, BROADWAY MORTUARY. SURVIVORS: WIFE, VALERIE; SON DR. RICHARD OF LEMONT, PA.; SISTERS, JEWELL FORRESTER, OPAL ESHOM, GLADYS SMITH, ALL OF WICHITA, PEARL MCDOWELL OF OKLAHOMA CITY, JANE GERMOND OF DALLAS.

FRED RIFFEL, 81, OF 1541 S. TOPEKA, RETIRED MACHINIST FOR BOEING MILITARY AIRCRAFT CO., DIED SATURDAY. SERVICE 11 A.M. TUESDAY. DEVORSS MORTUARY. SURVIVORS: WIFE, ALICE; DAUGHTERS, BETTY SAWYER OF WICHITA, LUCILLE REESE OF LAMESA, CALIF., VIVIAL SAINT OF KEOKUK, IOWA, LAVINA WOLF OF FREMONT, CALIF.; BROTHERS ALEX OF GARDEN CITY, HARRY OF LAJUNTA, COLO.; SISTERS, KATHERINE JONES OF LAKIN, HANNA CURTIS OF LEOTI, RACHEL DOUGHERTY OF CUNNINGHAM. MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH KEEN AGERS BUS FUND.

HOMER G. PIPER, 69, OF 1520 N. BATTIN, NICHOLSON TOOL & DIE DESIGN ENGINEER, DIED SUNDAY. SERVICE 10 A.M. WEDNESDAY. LAKEVIEW MORTUARY. SURVIVORS: WIFE, ELIZABETH; SONS, JOE OF WICHITA, MIKE OF LITTLETON, COLO; DAUGHTERS, LYNNE SIMON OF WALNUT CREEK, CALIF., GINNY HOUGDAHL OF AMERY, WIS., NEVA ROHRBACK OF WICHITA; BROTHERS, GEORGE OF WICHITA, JOHN, VIRGIN, BOTH OF KANSAS CITY, MO.; SISTER, EDITH HEFLIN OF KANSAS CITY. MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.